

Academic Year: (2022 / 2023)

Review date: 21-06-2022

Department assigned to the subject:

Coordinating teacher: LORENZO RODRIGUEZ, JAVIER

Type: Compulsory ECTS Credits : 6.0

Year : 1 Semester : 2

REQUIREMENTS (SUBJECTS THAT ARE ASSUMED TO BE KNOWN)

No previous knowledge required

OBJECTIVES

To understand the basic concepts and categories of analysis of political science.

- To become familiar with political reality from a scientific perspective.
- Knowledge of the different models of the state and its institutional structures
- Critical thinking with respect to the functioning of social institutions.
- Develop the ability to relate complex concepts and apply them to today's global political reality. - Mastery of the language faculty for the expression of their ideas
- Ability to analyse and synthesise
- Ability to relate to other people
- Logical reasoning

DESCRIPTION OF CONTENTS: PROGRAMME

Unit 1. Politics: Setting the Stage

- What is politics?
- What is it that makes an act political?
- Politics as Making Common Decisions
- Politics as the exercise of power
- Power and Choice
- Politics, policy, polity
- Political Science

Unit 2. The State and Modern Policy

- The Modern State
- Policies of the State
- Economic Policy
- Justice and Effectiveness of public policies

Unit 3. The Citizens and the Regime

- Democracies and non-Democracies
- The coming and going of Democracy
- Democracy and Freedom
- Democracy and Capitalism
- Authoritarian Systems
- Military Governments
- One-party States
- Monarchies and Theocracies

Unit 4. Political Culture and Political Behaviour

- Analysing Political Cultures
- Religion and Political Culture
- Political Socialization
- Media as Agents of Political Socialization
- Social Media and Political Socialization

Unit 5. Political Institutions

- Government
- Parliaments

- Political parties
- Elections
- Interest Groups and Politics
- Social Movements

Unit 6. Globalisation and International Politics

- State-Nation sovereignty
- International Institutions
- The European Union
- UN, NATO, WB, IMF, G-8
- Globalization

Unit 7. Principles of Political Analysis

- Falsifiability
- What makes a statement interesting?
- Causation and Explanation
- Historical explanation
- Empirical analysis

LEARNING ACTIVITIES AND METHODOLOGY

- Class participation: Each student is expected to attend class, and significantly contribute to the seminar discussion each week. Participation in class discussion (oral or written) is an essential part of the class.

- News Workshop: Each week, a group of students (3-5 members), will present a news report related to the topics explained during the theoretical sessions. This report will consist in a short written report and a 15 min presentation during seminar sessions. For this purpose the report should be argumentative (make a point) and should answer the following questions:

- Brief summary of the news
- Why do you think is the news related to the topic
- What is the main subject of the highlight
- Who is involved in the issue
- Identify and define main political actors
- Principal actors¿ statements/positions
- 2-3 final conclusions
- Sources used
- Prepare one question to be discussed by his/her classmates in class.

Experiential activity:

In collaboration with the subject Introduction to Economics: Visit to the plenary budget session/ parliamentary control session presenting a final reflection on what they have seen.

Competences that the student will acquire with this experiential session: analytical thinking skills, public speaking, reflection on the political culture of the country, cultural immersion.

ASSESSMENT SYSTEM

Attendance: 10%
 Unit summary: 15%
 News Workshop: 25%
 Final exam: 50%

BASIC BIBLIOGRAPHY

- Clark, W. R., Golder, M., & Golder, S. N. Principles of comparative politics, CQ Press, 2012
- Donovan, John., Morgan, R., Potholm, C., Weigle, M People Power & Politics: An Introduction to Political Science. (Third Ed), Auflage: Littlefield Adams Quaterly Paperback, 1993

